

IN THE CLAIMS

1. An integrated orthopedic bandage system comprising
 - a) a water-curable orthopedic casting material, which is in the form of a splint, and
 - b) a container including water which is removable from said container.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the container includes water-laden gel containing said water and is in fluid communication with said orthopedic casting material.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the casting material is in a flat arrangement.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein the water-laden gel container is provided with opening means operable to permit the release of said gel therefrom into contact with the orthopedic casting material.
5. The system of claim 4 wherein the gel container is a rupturable flat long pouch and the opening means is a string which is secured to the gel container so that when pulled it ruptures the gel container to expose the gel contained in the gel container to the casting material.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein the orthopedic casting material is protected with a protective sleeve.
7. The system of claim 6 wherein the container is anchored to the sleeve.
8. The system of claim 7 wherein there is some degree of adhesion of the container to the casting material.
9. The system of claim 6 wherein the protective sleeve is water-resistant.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein the protective sleeve is contained within a padding sleeve.
11. The system of claim 1 further comprising an outer package which encloses the water-curable orthopedic casting material and the container.
12. The system of claim 2 wherein the gel comprises a member selected from the group consisting of hydroxymethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, acrylates, polyglycols, and propylene glycol.
13. The system of claim 1 wherein the orthopedic casting material comprises fiberglass, or weaved synthetic fabric.
14. The system of claim 13 wherein the orthopedic casting material includes a water-curable resin.
15. The system of claim 14 wherein the water-curable resin is polyurethane.
16. The system of claim 12 wherein there is present in said gel a material selected from the group consisting of hardeners and accelerators.
17. A method for curing a water-curable orthopedic casting material, which is in the form of a splint, the method comprising applying to an orthopedic material to be cured, an effective amount of water in the form of a water-laden gel.
18. The method of claim 17 wherein the orthopedic casting material and said water-laden gel are present in a package wherein the water laden gel is provided in a container from which it is removable into fluid communication with said casting material whereby when said gel is removed from said container, said gel can be made to contact said casting material.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the casting material is flat.
20. The method of claim 17 wherein the gel comprises a member selected from the group consisting of hydroxymethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, acrylates, polyglycols, and propylene glycol.
21. The method of claim 17 wherein the orthopedic casting material comprises fiberglass, or weaved synthetic fabric.
22. The method of claim 21 wherein the orthopedic casting material includes a water-curable resin.
23. The method of claim 22 wherein the water-curable resin is polyurethane.
24. The method of claim 17 wherein the applying comprises exposing the gel contained in the gel container to the casting material by means of opening means.
25. The method of claim 24 wherein the gel container is rupturable flat long pouch and the opening means is a string which is secured to the surface of the gel container or located inside the gel container in the longitudinal direction of the gel container so that when pulled it ruptures the gel container to expose the gel contained in the gel container to the casting material.
26. The method of claim 17 wherein the orthopedic casting material is protected with a protective sleeve.
27. The method of claim 26 wherein the gel container is anchored to the sleeve.
28. The method of claim 27 wherein the protective sleeve is water-resistant.